

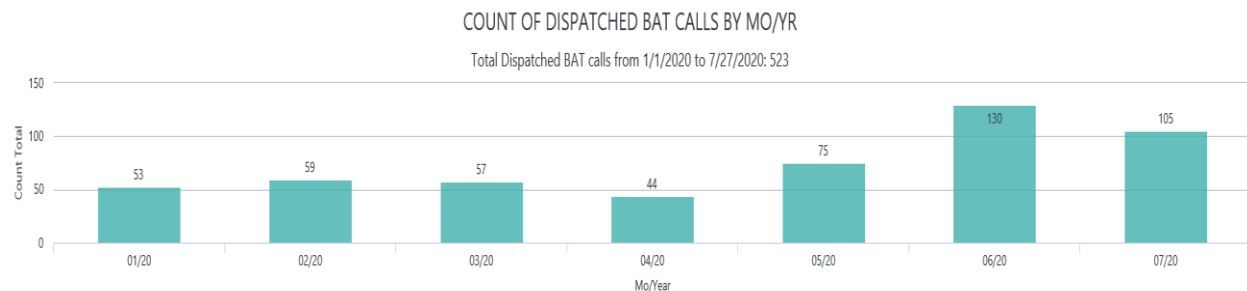
# **LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT**

## **TO THE LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**JULY , 2020**

### **ANIMAL CONTROL**

Animal Control's call load has increased in the past couple of months. Officers are being dispatched on more bat calls and are testing those bats where the incident included any risk exposure to rabies. The bat season will continue with most calls coming in the months of August and September. This will require more overtime and night shift duty for the officers.



Animal Control is still receiving a few coyotes calls however the number of calls has decreased over the last several weeks. We appreciated the cooperation from Lincoln Parks and Recreations, NE Game and Parks Commission and the Federal Wildlife Services staff with our response to nuisance coyote calls. Animal Control has been able to maintain a good response to calls from the public during the pandemic. All priority calls are getting addressed and most of the non-priority calls are also getting done. A special thanks to all the Animal Control staff that have worked hard to keep all our regular job duties going during the pandemic. It has meant more phone calls, more triage of calls where officers are going into people's homes and minimize any risk exposure to covid-19. We appreciate their commitment to their jobs during these more difficult and different times.

### **COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES**

During this period, staff have been collaborating with the Colleges of Nursing. Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department's Community Health Services Division has been partnering with colleges and universities for decades. This partnership has been beneficial for all parties, the institutions, students, Health Department and the community.

This program allows Community Health Services staff (nurses, Community Outreach Specialist, Community Resource Specialists) to share with and educate students on our robust brand of Public Health. Students benefit from their interactions and association with the department by providing hands on care to the clients. This school year, Community Health Services will receive one hundred ten (110) students. These students will be exposed to a variety of experiences. This includes field work where

students will be working with pregnant women and families with young children. These families will receive one-on-one education on a variety of topics as it relates to healthy pregnancy, healthy baby, nutrition, development, etc. This work is typically done in the home setting. However, with the current situation (COVID-19), appropriate adjustments will be made.

Students also work in the clinical setting. Clinical experiences are being planned in a variety of locations. Student will have the option of working at clinics located here at the department. These clinics include Sexually Transmitted Disease, HIV, Refugee and Immunization Clinics. Students receive a wealth of information and education through these clinics. Students also will have opportunities to go out into the community through our Fall outreach programs. Along with the other programs and services we provide in Community Health Services, students will have a closeup look at the vulnerable populations we serve.

This year, students will have a unique opportunity to be a part of the COVID-19 efforts in this community. In our planning this year, it was felt that incorporating this piece into their curriculum will serve the students for years to come. Students will be trained as contact tracers. Their work in this area will be valuable to this community and to them as they move into the workforce as nurses.

## **DENTAL HEALTH**

### **WIC**

#### **Caseload (Participation)**



<b>Total</b>	<b>3792 (-43 June 2019)</b>	<b>State: 34,025 (+617 June 2019)</b>
<b>Main</b>	2632 (+58)	
<b>Cornhusker Clinic</b>	1160 (-1)	
<b>%Enrolled with Benefits</b>	91.04	

#### **Participants by Category/Breastfeeding Information**

	<b>LLCHD</b>	<b>State of Nebraska</b>
<b>Total Women</b>	811 (21.4%)	7,291 (21.4%)
<b>Total Children</b>	2188 (57.8%)	18,906 (55.6%)
<b>Total Infants</b>	793 (20.9%)	7,828(23.0%)
<b>Infants Receiving Breastmilk</b>	306 (38.6%)	2,728 (34.8%)
<b>Infants Exclusive Breastmilk</b>	114 (14.4%)	906 (11.7%)

#### **Mentoring:**

(Number and school)

<b>Students</b>	
<b>Interns</b>	
<b>Volunteers</b>	
<b>LMEP Residents</b>	Dr. Sean Flor

### WIC QI—No Show Rates:

	FFY 20 Main Office	FFY 20 North Office	FFY 20 LLCHD Overall
<i>October</i>	19.8%	17.5%	19.1%
<i>November</i>	19.9%	26.7%	22.1%
<i>December</i>	19.6%	23.3%	20.8%
<i>January</i>	21.4%	20.5%	21.1%
<i>February</i>	19.0%	22.8%	20.3%
<i>March</i>	11.1%	14.1%	12.2%
<i>April</i>	9.5%	14.3%	11.4%
<i>May</i>	10.5%	11.5%	10.9%
<i>June</i>	13.0%	16.5%	14.2%
<i>July</i>			
<i>August</i>			
<i>September</i>			
<i>Average</i>	16.0%	18.6%	16.9%

Our June caseload was 3792 (-43 from June 2019). We had 2 more working days in June than May. BF rates continue to be above those of the state. Due to COVID-19, LLCHD WIC is completing all WIC visits via phone while clients remain at home and will continue to complete appointments this way through September 2020.



### DENTAL HEALTH

#### **Dental Clinic Services:**

##### **Emergency, Urgent and Limited Routine Dental Care**

- Total number of clients served (unduplicated count): 338
- Total number of patient encounters (duplicated client count): 487
- Total number of patient visits (duplicated provider appointments/visits): 692
- Total number of Racial/Ethnic and White non-English speaking patients: 280 (83%)
- Total number of children served: 278 (82%)
- Total number of clients enrolled in Medicaid: 292 (86%)
- Total number of all clients with language barriers: 215 (64%)

(Arabic, Burmese, Farsi, French, Karen, Kurdish, Russian, Spanish, Ukranian, Vietnamese)

Community outreach activities were suspended during June. Anticipated start up dates for young children's oral health screenings and fluoride varnish applications is tentatively scheduled for August and September.

# **ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH**

## **West Nile Virus Surveillance / Vector Control**

### **Goals (Purpose):**

Protect human health by preventing the spread of West Nile Virus (WNV) by monitoring mosquito populations, responding to complaints, eliminating mosquito breeding sites, treating with larvicide, testing for WNV, and, rarely, spraying to kill adult mosquitoes.

### **Indicator:**

Resolve 90% of nuisance complaints on stagnant water or mosquitoes within 30 days. Maintain surveillance system to control outbreaks by reducing human West Nile Disease cases.

### **Strategies/Methods (What we do):**

- Educate public on WNV risk reduction;
- Investigate and resolve standing water and mosquito complaints;
- Trap, identify mosquitoes and submit *Culex* species for virus testing;
- Maintain pesticide applicator licenses for Health Department (LLCHD), Lincoln Transportation & Utilities (LTU), and Lincoln Parks & Recreation staff; and
- Coordinate pesticide spraying if needed.



*Culex mosquito*

*Photo by James Kalisch*

**Funding/Source:** Grants in Aid (100%)

### **Comparison:**

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
West Nile Virus – Fever	1	12	4	4	6	4
West Nile Virus – Neuro-invasive	0	3	0	5	4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>

Mosquito surveillance for WNV is shown in the chart below.

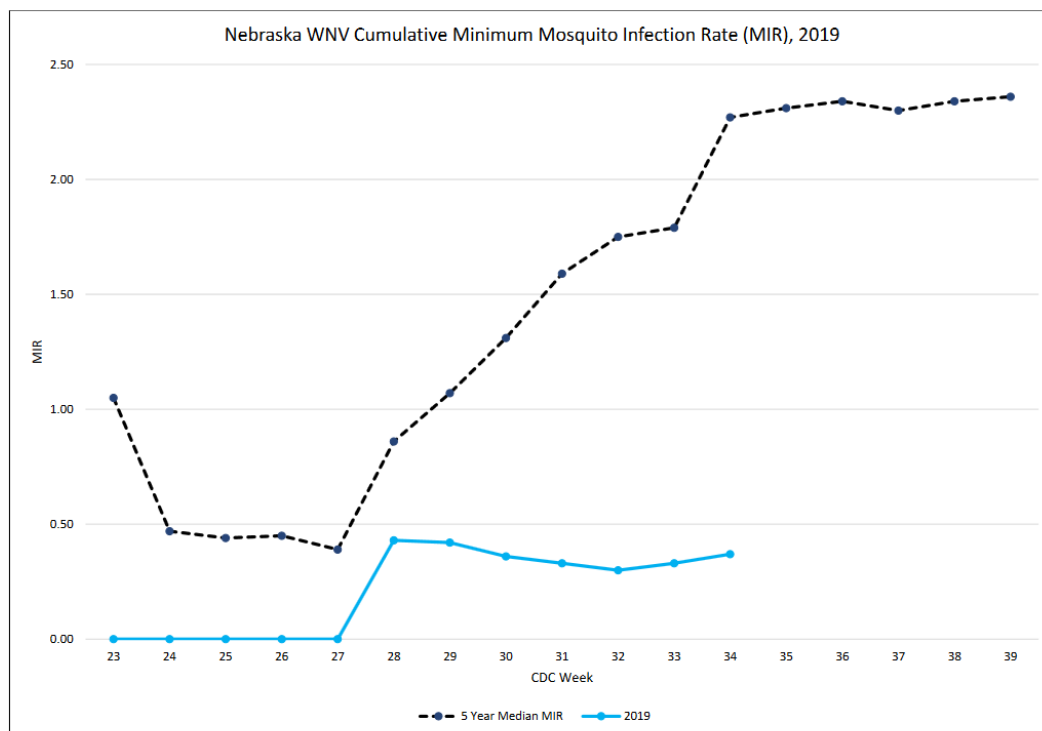


Figure 3. Cumulative WNV Minimum Mosquito Infection Rate (MIR) Nebraska, 2019.

The cumulative Minimum Infection Rate (MIR) for 2019 was significantly lower than the five-year average for Nebraska. One possible explanation could be the higher than normal precipitation levels during the 2019 mosquito trapping season. While mosquitoes need water to reproduce, dryer than normal years can actually lead to a higher MIR, because birds (WNV carrier) tend to concentrate more heavily at the water sources where mosquitoes breed.

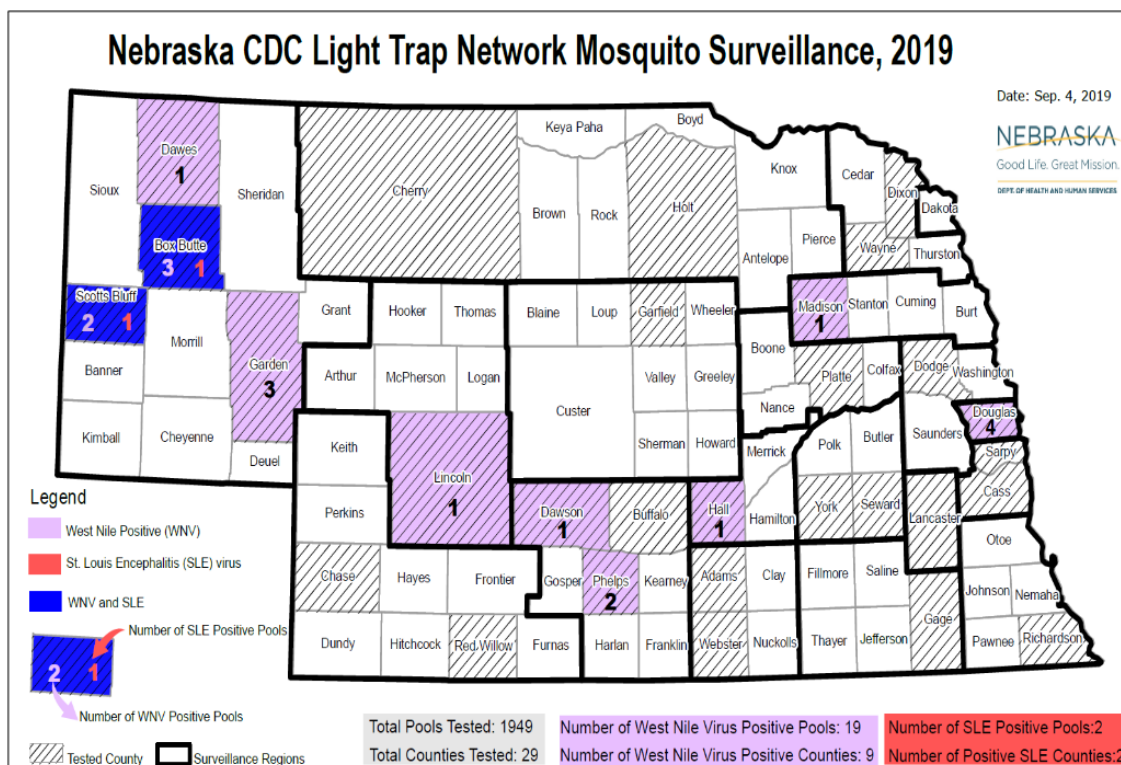


Figure 2. WNV Positive Mosquito Pools by County in the Nebraska CDC Light trap Network, 2019.

**Description:**

West Nile Virus is now an endemic disease in Nebraska and Lancaster County. Public education on reducing risk of contracting WNV is conducted and includes encouraging the use of insect repellants, wearing long sleeves and pants, and avoiding being out during dusk and dawn hours when mosquitoes that transmit WNV are most active. LLCHD staff trap mosquitoes and send them to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for identification and viral testing. The State Public Health Lab tests the mosquitoes for WNV. LLCHD assures that pesticide applicator licenses are maintained for Health, Public Works and Parks staff so that the community can respond if a WNV epidemic is predicted. Health would coordinate any community-wide mosquito spraying in an epidemic situation. In FY19, grant funds covered direct program costs of monitoring mosquitoes. In addition, Lincoln Municipal Code prohibits stagnant water on any property. The LLCHD is required to investigate and resolve standing water and mosquito nuisance conditions.

The Zika Virus is an emerging mosquito borne disease worldwide. The symptoms for Zika are generally mild, however it is a significant concern to pregnant women as the virus has been linked to Microcephaly in infants. Microcephaly is a condition where a baby's head is much smaller than expected, often resulting in serious disabilities or even death. The Zika Virus is spread by the *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquito species. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NE DHHS) provided LLCHD with special traps that attract and capture these types of mosquitoes. LLCHD staff set these traps every other week during the summer at different locations around the city and county. Mosquitoes are then sent to NE DHHS for identification and viral testing. In 2019, no *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes were identified in the city of Lincoln or Lancaster County.

**Partnerships & Efficiencies:**

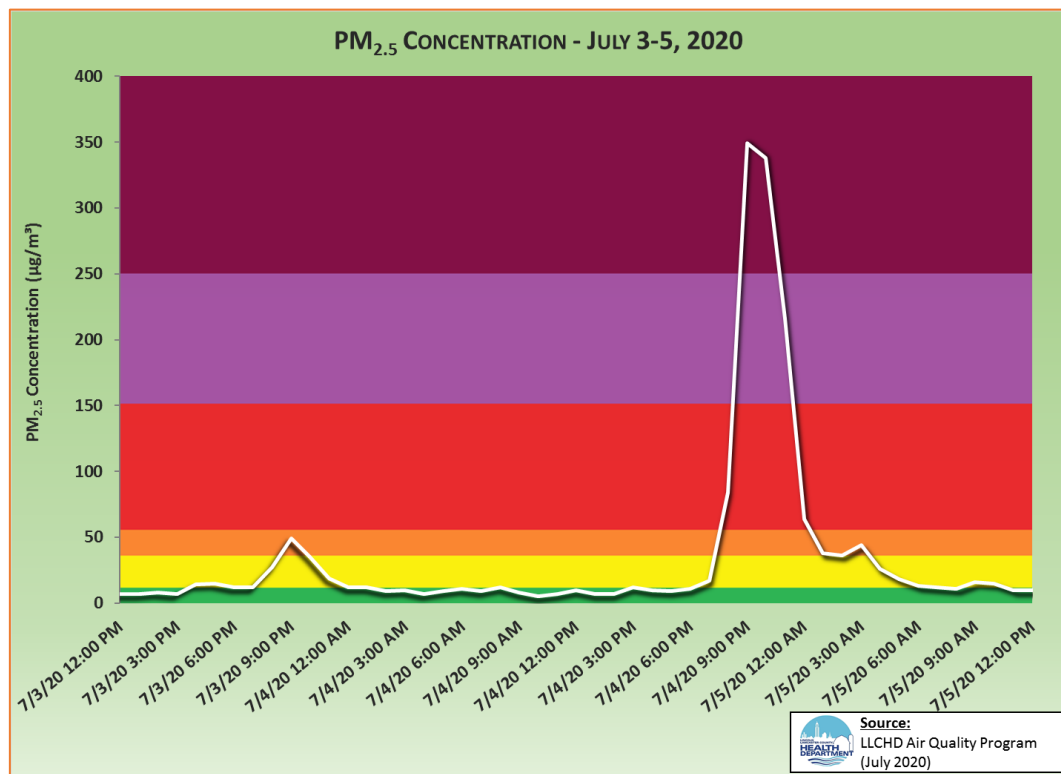
Collaboration with LTU and Lincoln Parks & Recreation assures spraying for adult mosquitoes can be performed if necessary, in outbreak conditions. The NE DHHS performs mosquito identification and the Public Health Lab does all virus testing at no cost to the City or County.

**Fireworks Impact Air Quality**

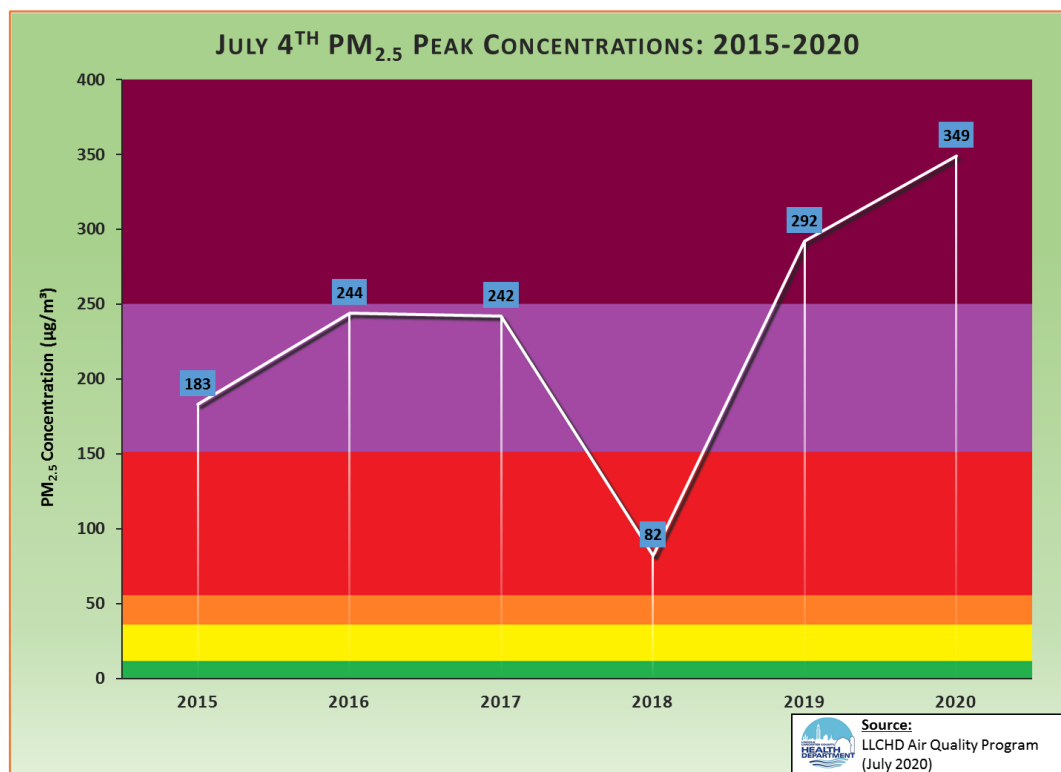
Fireworks, as we have come to know them, originated in China during the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Chinese alchemists were searching for an elixir for immortality, and accidentally mixed saltpeter (potassium nitrate) with sulfur and charcoal, stumbling upon a crude chemical recipe for gunpowder. Eventually, gunpowder would be stuffed into bamboo tubes to create a form of sparkler for use in Chinese cultural celebrations. The rest, as they say, is history.

While fireworks have become an integral part of Independence Day celebrations, high concentrations of smoke are often left in the afterglow. The LLCHD Air Quality Program continuously monitors our air for fine particulate matter, technically known as PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Fine particulate matter is so small that it can get deep into the lungs, enter the blood stream, and cause serious health problems. Exposure to high levels of particulate, even for a few hours, can aggravate lung disease, cause asthma attacks and acute bronchitis, and cause angina, heart attacks, and arrhythmias.

The Health Director issued a Health Advisory prior to July 4<sup>th</sup> to warn residents of the anticipated increased levels of fine particulate pollution associated with the extensive use of fireworks. Low wind speeds allowed smoky air to linger in the Lincoln area for several hours on the night of July 4<sup>th</sup>. The following chart displays the fine particulate levels measured in Lincoln from noon on July 3<sup>rd</sup> to noon on July 5<sup>th</sup>.



For two hours on the night of July 4<sup>th</sup>, concentrations reached peak levels deemed ‘Hazardous’ in the U.S. EPA’s Air Quality Index (AQI). There were several more hours when PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations were in the “Unhealthy” (red) or “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” (orange). Peak levels recorded this year were higher than those experienced during over the past several years, as reflected in the following chart.



\* – In 2018, a thunderstorm system passed through the Lincoln area at around 10:00 pm, which limited how many fireworks were set off. The high winds that accompanied the storm also moved any existing smoke out of the area quickly.

# **HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH**

## **CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION**

- Staff began a new grant initiative, “Overdose Data to Action: Local Prevention Efforts,” of which the purpose is to raise awareness of drug overdose and opioid prevention in Lincoln-Lancaster County.
- Staff has been participating in a series of meetings with Transportation and Utilities, Planning, LPS, UNL Professors, LPD officers, LF&R officers, and a facilitator over a course of meetings to address pedestrian and bicycle issues from across the City. On May 22, 2020, the final “City of Lincoln School Zone Standards” document was released by Transportation and Utilities. This will be used as a basis to work specifically with schools to implement standards in each school neighborhood.
- Men’s and Women’s Health Hub service provided 100% telephonically due to COVID-19 pandemic. The Hub is actively leveraging established collaborations and partnerships to receive referrals. LLCHD Hub has explored new tools to connect with clients during this pandemic time using some free web-based calling/texting applications e.g. WhatsApp and Viber as alternative ways for regular paid phone services if needed.

## **TOBACCO**

- Health educators responded with EPH to five different smoking complaints providing education to property owners at each location. No citations were issued by EPH.
- LPS and LLCHD staff created over 25 messages for use throughout the academic year. Messages will be placed across middle and high schools as posters and bathroom mirror clings. New messages will be shared quarterly.
- 15 men at the Bridge Behavioral Health about tobacco and e-cigarette use and cessation. Each participant was given a quit kit to aid them in tobacco cessation
- Staff hosted five training webinars provided by two different experts with 122 people registered to attend from more than 10 different organizations across the state.
- Staff has been in communication with Lincoln Parks and Rec to update some park signage to reflect tobacco-free policies. Additionally, staff has been in contact with rural Lancaster County parks offering free signage and assistance. To date, Waverly, Sprague, and Roca are engaging in the opportunity

## **INJURY PREVENTION**

- Staff assisted Melissa Fuller, LNK Health TV, with the production of 3 Sports Injury Prevention PSAs to be used in connection with the pilot project and the broader youth sports community eventually. The PSAs covered concussion prevention, hydration, and overuse injury prevention.
- Because of the record sales of backyard swimming pools of all sizes due to COVID-19 social distancing practices, Safe Kids is creating and distributing three pool (and open water) safety educational videos to the following organizations: Partnership for Healthy Lincoln; Lincoln Family Services; LPS Communications, Lincoln Medical Education Partnership – School Community Intervention Program; Lutheran Family Services; CEDARS Youth Services; Community Action of Lancaster and Saunders Counties; LLCHD Childcare and Household Hazardous Waste Programs.
- The first car seat event since March took place at LLCHD on July 9 and was sponsored by Safe Kids Lincoln-Lancaster County. Pandemic protocol was followed. 9 seats were checked, and 4 seats were provided to families in need. The 9 techs participating were anxious to resume checking car seats. All participating families were grateful for the child passenger safety



education and car seat for those receiving one. Based on this experience, we feel comfortable resuming community car seat check events using the COVID-19 prevention protocol.

- Staff conducted the first Child Care Transportation Training since March on July 16. Pandemic protocol was followed. A total of 9 childcare staff attended the training and received certificates. Based on this experience, we feel comfortable in resuming CCTT's using the COVID-19 prevention protocol.

## **EMPLOYEE WELLNESS**

- The wellness coordinator facilitated a workshop for summer camp counselors at the Nature Center to address the importance of self-care as you care for others. Twelve staff participated in the workshop discussing how a changing environment can affect overall well-being and strategies to enhance emotional awareness for themselves and others.
- Virtual wellness programming began in June and employees have responded well. Summer Slim Down, an eight-week healthy lifestyle program has 49 employees participating, and Couch to 5K, an eight-week running program has nine employees participating. The UNL dietetic interns are joining these Zoom meetings and providing additional guidance to participants.
- Nine members virtually attended the July City/County Wellness Committee meeting. Employees expressed increased desire for more information about Continuum EAP services, a walking program for the fall, and additional resources about emotional and interpersonal wellness. Three members of the LLCHD Wellness Committee met in July to familiarize themselves with the new Fit Park at Woods Park so they can promote it to coworkers. Six City and County employees were recognized in June as Wellness Champions for efforts in their department to enhance worksite wellness.

## **MEDIA**

- Froggy 98 radio station [virtual health fair](#) raising awareness about the need to quit tobacco to maximize protection against COVID 19 included: Commercials on the radio and online; a TFLC dedicated webpage; Facebook content; and, E-mail blast. Analytics: The radio and streaming ads ran 170 times over two-weeks and reached over 80,000 people. The webpage included 20 original content TFLC graphics and 2 original TFLC and LNKTV Health videos and had over 200 views. The email was opened by 1,200 readers, and the Facebook post was viewed 8,200 times.
- June LGBTQ+ media campaign completed and included: Radio; Digital pop-up; Social media ads; [Facebook](#) placement; YouTube [video](#) on the LNKTV Health channel. Analytics: The TFLC Facebook video ad garnered 3,088 views/plays. The radio ad ran on KZUM and played 72 times over 8 weeks reaching approximately 10,000 people/day for 720,000 people total. The digital pop-ups gained 169,770 impressions and performed above average with an average click-thru rate of 0.17, which is 3 times the benchmark. The YouTube video reached 26,000 through social media and unpaid placement. Paid YouTube video placement garnered 29,559 views and preformed 224% over the benchmark of a 15% view rate. The biggest audience was males 18-34.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATICS & PLANNING**

- Epidemiology continues to maintain the COVID19 dashboard and the dial.
- Information Management is working on second phase of the application to manage PPE requests, this phase connects requests to inventory.
- Communicable Disease is fully engaged in COVID19: investigations, consultation for health care providers and contact tracing. TB case work is being maintained.